



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Agri-Facts

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MARCH REVIEW

Mild temperatures and above normal rainfall received during March has improved the overall cropping outlook for Washington. Snowpack for Washington continued to be below average. Winter wheat in Whitman County was enhanced by the soil moisture and was in good condition. Pastures in the eastern portion of the state have improved due to the moisture, but many remain in poor condition from the past drought conditions. In western Washington, persistent rainfall throughout the month resulted in two minor flood events and had most ag producers several weeks behind in field cultivation. Christmas tree growers finished tree planting and prepared equipment for herbicide applications

GRAIN STOCKS

Olympia - The quantity of wheat stored in all positions in Washington on March 1, 2003 was higher than the quantity being stored on March 1 a year earlier. Wheat stocks in Washington totaled 84.6 million bushels, an increase of 17 percent from March 1, 2002. Barley stored in the state totaled 7.2 million bushels, a decrease of 22 percent from last year.

Wheat stored on farms in Washington on March 1, 2003, totaled 8.5 million bushels, down 500,000 bushels from March 1, 2002. Off-farm wheat stocks totaled 76.1 million bushels, up 20 percent from a year ago.

The quantity of wheat stored in the **Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho), on March 1, 2003 totaled 141.6 million bushels, 7 percent higher than last year. On-farm stocks, at 24.5 million bushels, were down 5.5 million bushels from last year. Holdings off-farm were 117.1 million bushels, 15 percent more than a year ago. The quantity of wheat stored in the United States totaled 904.9 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago.

Washington on-farm **barley** stocks, on March 1, 2003, totaled 900,000 bushels, down 40 percent from a year ago. The quantity of barley stored in the state's off-farm storages was 6.3 million bushels, a decrease of 18 percent from last year. Pacific Northwest barley stocks in all positions totaled 31.1 million bushels on March 1, 2003, a decrease of 13 percent from the quantity in storage on March 1, 2002. Nationally, barley stocks in all positions totaled 123.5 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year.

Grain Stocks: March, 2002, December, 2002 ¹, & March, 2003

Crop/ Quarter	Washington			Pacific Northwest ²			United States		
	On-Farm	Off-Farm ³	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm ³	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm ³	Total
	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
Wheat									
Mar. 1, 2002	9,000	63,228	72,228	30,000	102,163	132,163	338,500	871,268	1,209,768
Dec. 1, 2002	14,000	103,345	117,345	40,500	156,646	197,146	384,800	935,069	1,319,869
Mar. 1, 2003	8,500	76,063	84,563	24,500	117,146	141,646	233,200	671,667	904,867
Barley									
Mar. 1, 2002	1,500	7,755	9,255	11,400	24,142	35,542	46,000	95,748	141,748
Dec. 1, 2002	2,500	11,371	13,871	19,500	29,140	48,640	83,400	86,601	170,001
Mar. 1, 2003	900	6,343	7,243	9,450	21,634	31,084	36,730	86,783	123,513
Oats									
Mar. 1, 2002		65			611		40,200	53,158	93,358
Dec. 1, 2002		156			1,122		52,500	51,284	103,784
Mar. 1, 2003		134			1,108		35,000	47,438	82,438
Corn									
Mar. 1, 2002		8,400					3,355,000	2,440,263	5,795,263
Dec. 1, 2002		7,726			11,700		4,800,000	2,837,971	7,637,971
Mar. 1, 2003		7,291			10,721		2,940,000	2,192,318	5,132,318

¹ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

² Revised.

³ Includes Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

³ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

Onions: Area Planted By Season & State, 2001-2003

State	Acres Planted			2003 as % of 2002
	2001	2002	2003	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	
Spring ¹	39,200	38,900	34,900	89.7
Summer (Non-Storage) ¹				
California	7,300	7,500	8,000	106.7
Nevada	2,900	3,300	3,400	103.0
New Mexico	8,100	8,100	7,700	95.1
Texas	2,800	3,000	2,700	90.0
Washington ²	800	1,100	1,400	127.3
Total Non-Storage	21,900	23,000	23,200	100.9
Storage				
California ³	31,000	31,500	33,500	106.3
Colorado	14,000	12,500	9,500	76.0
Idaho	8,000	8,100	7,900	97.5
New York	13,200	12,700	12,100	95.3
Oregon: Malheur	11,400	12,000	11,500	95.8
West	5,800	5,400	5,900	109.3
Washington	16,000	16,000	15,000	93.8
Other States	9,000	9,050	8,460	96.8
Total Storage	108,400	107,250	103,860	96.8
Total Summer	130,300	130,250	127,060	97.6
United States	169,500	169,150	161,960	95.7

¹ Primarily fresh market.² 2003 forecast includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.³ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.Asparagus: Yield & Production,¹

State	Area			Yield Per Acre		Production	
	Harvested		For Harvest 2003	2001	2002	2001	2002
	2001	2002					
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>
California	35,000	34,000	29,000	30	30	1,050	1,020
Michigan	14,300	15,000	15,000	20	15	290	219
New Jersey	1,100			24		26	
Washington	19,000	17,000	15,000	36	37	684	629
Total	69,400	66,000	15,000	30	28	2,050	1,868

New Jersey asparagus acreage estimates discontinued in 2002.

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

Vegetables For Processing: Planted Acreage

Crop & State	Planted Acres				2003 Contract as a % of 2002 Contract
	2001 Total	2002		2003 Contract Intentions ¹	
		Total	Contract ¹		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<u>Sweet Corn</u>					
Washington	98,400	97,700	97,630	97,500	99.9
Oregon	29,300	33,000	33,000	31,800	96.4
United States	457,650	444,800	444,230	438,600	98.7
<u>Green Peas</u>					
Washington	38,800	37,600	37,600	46,300	123.1
Oregon	23,200	20,300	20,300	22,300	109.9
United States	218,140	228,500	228,500	243,200	106.4

¹ Includes acreage from major brokers.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Washington farmers' 2003 planting intentions are generally lower than last year. Of the major crops, winter wheat is the only crop where acreage is above last year. Planted acreage for all other crops are unchanged or below last year. Water supplies are improving, but competition from the minor spring seeded crops, low 2002 prices, and the high costs of fuels, fertilizers and chemicals are influencing farmer's plans. These data were the results of the March Prospective Plantings Survey conducted during the first two weeks of March. There will be an update to the acreage planted from a survey in June and published June 28.

Spring wheat seedings for Washington are expected to be 600,000 acres, 20,000 acres less than last year. Oregon producers expect to plant 30,000 fewer acres and Idaho acreage is down 10,000 acres. Nationwide acreage fell from 15.7 million acres in 2002 to 14.6 million in 2003. **Winter and spring barley** acreage is estimated at 310,000 acres in Washington, 40,000 acres below 2002. Oregon acreage was down 10,000 acres while Idaho acreage was up 10,000 acres. Nationwide acreage is up to 5.38 million acres, from 5.07 million acres last year. **Sugarbeet** acreage for Washington is unchanged from last year, at 4,000 acres. **Dry bean** acres are expected to fall 16,000 acres in 2003, reaching 25,000 acres. **Field corn** acreage in Washington is down 10,000 acres to 120,000 acres. Planted acres of **oats** in Washington is unchanged from 2002, at 35,000 acres. Washington **hay** acres are down 10,000 acres to 800,000 acres. The initial estimate production for spring wheat and barley will be published July 11.

Prospective Plantings: Selected States & United States, 2001-2003

Crop	Washington			Oregon		Idaho		United States		
	2001	2002	Ind. 2003	2002	Ind. 2003	2002	Ind. 2003	2001	2002	Ind. 2003
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
All Wheat ¹	2,490	2,420	2,450	950	1,090	1,260	1,280	59,597	60,358	61,697
Winter ¹	1,850	1,800	1,850	800	970	730	760	41,078	41,735	44,308
Spring	640	620	600	150	120	530	520	15,609	15,714	14,556
Barley ¹	430	350	310	80	70	730	740	4,967	5,073	5,379
Oats	30	35	35	80	75	125	125	4,403	5,005	4,828
Corn	115	130	120	62	60	190	195	75,752	79,054	79,022
Dry Beans ²	34	41	25	10	10	95	100	1,436	1,922	1,523
Sugarbeets ³	7.2	4.0	4.0	11.2	11.0	212.0	210.0	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3
All Hay ⁴	790	830	800	1,095	1,050	1,570	1,500	63,521	64,497	63,552

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

² Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

³ Relates to year of intended harvest except over-wintered spring planted beets in California.

⁴ Area harvested in 2001 & 2002 and intended for harvest in 2003.

Prices
Average Price Received By Farmers For Farm Products (Dollars/Unit)

Commodity/Unit		Washington			United States			
		Entire Month		Prelim. Mar. 2003	Entire Month		Prelim. Mar. 2003	Parity Price
		Mar. 2002	Feb. 2003		Mar. 2002	Feb. 2003		
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.18	3.76	3.33	2.87	3.68	3.49	9.71
Wheat, Spring	Bu.	3.29	3.88	3.53	2.90	3.79	3.69	
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	3.15	3.73	3.29	2.81	3.52	3.27	
Barley	Bu.	1.94	2.76	2.55	2.17	2.87	2.92	6.57
Corn	Bu.				1.94	2.34	2.30	6.64
Oats	Bu.				1.99	2.09	1.94	4.15
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.				27.10	19.40	15.50	50.70
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	7.35	6.10	6.10	8.26	6.55	6.87	13.90
Potatoes, Processing	Cwt.	5.45	5.60		8.50	5.37		
Hay, All (baled) ¹	Tons	124.00	106.00	113.00	92.30	91.80	92.80	
Alfalfa (baled) ¹	Tons	115.00		103.00	99.60		96.20	
Other Hay (baled) ¹	Tons	140.00	125.00	132.00	72.70	79.40	82.30	
Hops	Lbs.							4.35
Apples, Fresh ²	Lbs.	0.230	0.247	0.222	0.220	0.246	0.226	0.490
Beef Cattle	Cwt.				70.60	74.00	72.20	161.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.				74.10	78.10	76.20	
Calves	Cwt.				105.00	97.30	96.40	217.00
Broilers ⁴	Lbs.				0.320	0.340	0.340	
Eggs, Table ¹	Doz.	0.622	0.539	0.575	0.515	0.466	0.518	1.59
Milk, All Wholesale ⁵	Cwt.	12.60	11.30	11.00	12.70	11.40	11.00	33.60
Hogs	Cwt.				36.00	34.30	35.00	103.00
Sheep	Cwt.				31.80	43.60		79.40
Lambs	Cwt.				66.70	92.40		186.00

¹ All prices are mid-month estimates.

² Equivalent packinghouse door returns for apples for CA, NY, MI, and WA, and are price at point of the first sale for other states.

³ Dairy cows sold for dairy herd replacement. Prices estimated quarterly.

⁴ Liveweight equivalent price.

⁵ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

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